
April - May 2005
Issue 12

The Next Step

REFORMING
ALLIANCE

Within the Uniting Church in Australia



Canberra Christian Fellowship in the Methodist Tradition

Easter

Rev. Abraham Tang

Easter was early this year, so we celebrated Christ's resurrection at our March service.

"Look! He has risen" was the title for Rev. Abraham Tang's sermon.

We enjoyed the singing of our Fijian AOG friends.



10th April Service – Rev. Warwick Brain – Bible Society

Faith was Rev. Warwick Brain's subject when he came to preach for us in April representing The Bible Society.

Warwick made a number of observations which set me thinking much more carefully about the nature of faith and its application in our lives.

Two thoughts that particularly spoke to me were:

- We should have faith only in someone / something that is reliable,
- The Bible is our primary source of information about God, so our understanding of God and His activity in this world must be consistent with what it teaches.

ID

Letter from The Bible Society

Bible Society
NSW
Making the Bible heard since 1817

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Reforming Alliance Uniting Church
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Dear Friends

Thank you for your prayerful and financial support of Bible Society as we strive together to spread the Good News. Your support for Distribution of Bibles will be greatly appreciated by those who receive God's Word.

How can people have faith in the Lord and ask him to save them, if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear, unless someone tells them?

Romans 10:14

Your receipt for Distribution of Bibles is attached.

Your brother in Christ

Daniel L Willis
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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Reforming Alliance Uniting Church

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24th April Service – Mr. Alan Melmoth

Alan Melmoth mentioned that he, as a farmer, is more used to yelling at sheep than preaching, but then gave us a great deal to think about in his sermon on prayer.

He started with a possibly apocryphal story about a small town that boasted two churches and a distillery with an atheistic owner. The church people believed the distillery was harming their community so gathered together and prayed that it would be shut down. A short time later a storm hit the town, lightning struck the distillery and it was burnt down. The owner claimed the church people were responsible for his loss as a result of their prayer meeting and sued. The church people denied any responsibility. In his verdict the judge mentioned his confusion at having an atheist distillery owner professing a belief in the power of prayer while committed church people were denying any connection between their prayers and the demise of the distillery.

What do we believe about prayer?

Jesus assumed prayer was normal. Prayer is an integral part of even a “base model” christian. The Disciples asked “Teach us to pray”.

Alan suggested we should pray and not give up praying.

1 We shouldn't worry but pray

Worry is like a rocking chair. It gives us something to do but it doesn't get us anywhere.

2 We shouldn't quit praying, but pray persistently.

We can see in the Bible that David was an “all day” prayer.

3 We shouldn't doubt but pray positively.

We should expect God to answer our prayers.

We should pray to God in faith and not doubt (James 1: 6,7)

We can approach God with confidence (I John 5: 14)

If prayers are not answered, look for a reason:- a wrong question; unconfessed sin; wrong timing.

God answers prayers in different ways:

Quickly – A lady looking for a dry parking spot in teaming rain prayed for God's help. Immediately the perfect parking spot became available right in front of her. God had answered but her prayer continued ‘Don't bother, I've just found a spot myself’.

Later – God's timing is impeccable

A better way – God sometimes has something even better in store for us than what we are requesting.

No – We shouldn't stop praying until we receive a clear NO from God.

Prayer is a request, not a demand.

Alan concluded by stating that listening to sermons on prayer is not as valuable as actually praying.

8th May Service – Dr. Ted Dennis

Christian Charity was the topic of Dr. Ted Dennis's sermon on 8th May.

Ted pointed out the way we do things should be in line with what is taught in the Gospel.

We call ourselves the "Canberra Christian Fellowship in the Methodist Tradition". Ted questioned what Methodist traditions we are trying to keep alive. The answer he sees is to Preach the Gospel, i.e. that we are saved! Justified by the blood of Christ.

Social justice matters do not become an add-on to our faith but are in fact a natural consequence of our faith. We should help the poor and needy in the context of preaching the Gospel.

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Coming Up

We meet at the Campbell Gospel Chapel, Chauvel st., Campbell

Bible Study every Tuesday at 2-30 pm at the Campbell Gospel Chapel, Chauvel Street. (For further details, contact Joyce Hall – 6241 2085).

Sunday 22 May 2005 at 5 pm – Rev. Phil Anderson (Senior Chaplain Army Headquarters)

Sunday 29 May 2005 (5th Sunday) – Fellowship Tea

Sunday 12 June – Dr. Howard Bradbury (Anniversary Service with visiting choirs)

Sunday 26 June 2005 – Rev. Ron Peters (Communion Service)

A number of people from our fellowship (around 10-12) are either currently away or going to be away for a few weeks for a variety of reasons (see notices for more information). Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Lucy and Abraham Tang are expecting an addition to their family near the end of this month. We pray for God's blessing on them.

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Need help with transport? If so, ask. Someone may be able to help.

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